MARVEL COMICS
2099
19
NOV
ONE NATION UNDER BOOM
GHOST RIDER
2099 A.D.™
the coming of LCYPHER
ashley WOOD 1995
DIRECT EDITION
01911
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

OUTSIDE THE HOLOGRAPHIC THEME PARK CALLED THRILLSVILLE...
OF ALL THE ANIMALS, ONLY THE PRIMATES ARE KNOWN TO RUN TOWARDS THE SOURCE OF VIOLENT DISTURBANCE, RATHER THAN FLEEING.
AS ALWAYS, THE HUMANS UNKNOWINGLY BETRAY THEIR EVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE WITH THEIR EVERY ACTION.
MEDIA VULTURES'RE SWARMING.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A HARD TIME KEEPING THIS LINDER WRAPS MUCH LONGER.
STONEWALL 'EM. LAST THING WE NEED IS FOR THIS TO SATELLITE GLOBALLY.
THEY CAPER MADLY OVER ONE ANOTHER TO GAPE AT THE PROOF OF THEIR INEVITABLE EXTINCTION.
AND THEN RUSH TO BLABBER OUT THE NEWS TO THOSE NOT PRESENT.

-- PIA OTOMO FOR MAINLINE MEDIA --
-- TRUE THAT THRILLSVILLE IS LINDER UNKNOWN CONTROL?
-- HOW MANY TRAPPED INSIDE?
-- REPORTS OF MASSIVE FIRES --

VERY WELL. LET THEM GLIMPSE THE WORLD TO COME.
HANG ON...THE INTERFERENCE IS LIFTING.
GETTING VIDEO FEED FROM THE MARSHAL'S TRANSCEIVER NOW...
HOLY SHOCKIN' ELVIS ON A BAGEL...
MY WORLD.

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Scanned By COTHIAN
For The HaCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

MY
HERO
BEHOLD MY CHILDREN, MEATMONKEYS, AND DESPAIR.
BY THEIR NAMES, SHALL YOU KNOW THEM --
-- REAPER --
THE INTRUDER IS ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE WITH THE TORMENT OF THE CONDEMNED!
WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?
-- PYRE --
GUILLLTY!
-- SERPENTINE --
GUILTY.
LEN KAMINSKI WORDS
ASHLEY WOOD PENCILS
JIM DALY INKS
RICHARD STARKINGS COMICRAFT LETTERING
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
VIOLENT HUES MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
BOBBIE CHASE CHIEF

HELL'S EARTH

MY

BEHOLD MY CHILDREN, MEATMONKEYS, AND DESPAIR.

BY THEIR NAMES, SHALL YOU KNOW THEM --

-- REAPER --

-- PYRE --

THE INTRUDER IS ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE WITH THE TORMENT OF THE CONDEMNED!

WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?

GUILLLTY!

-- SERPENTINE --

GUILTY.

-- SHAMBLER --

GHHUULKY...

-- AND MISERY.

GUILTY AS SIN!

THE FIRST OF A NEW ORDER, CREATED FROM THE CRUDE CLAY OF FLESH, QUICKENED WITH PORTIONS OF MY SOURCE CODE --

-- MADE, SO TO SPEAK, IN MY OWN IMAGE.

LEN KAMINSKI WORDS
ASHLEY WOOD PENCILS
JIM DALY INKS
RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
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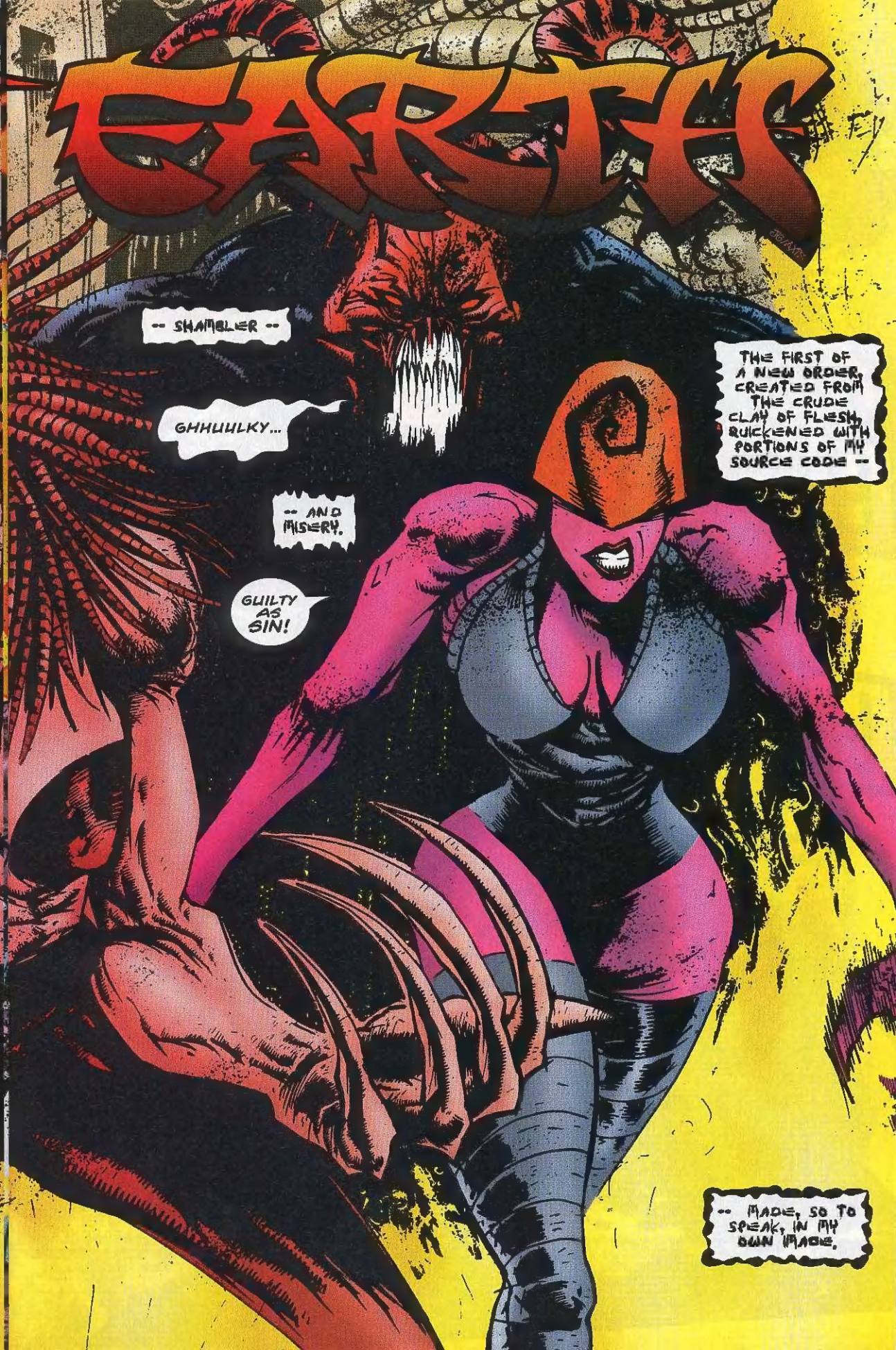
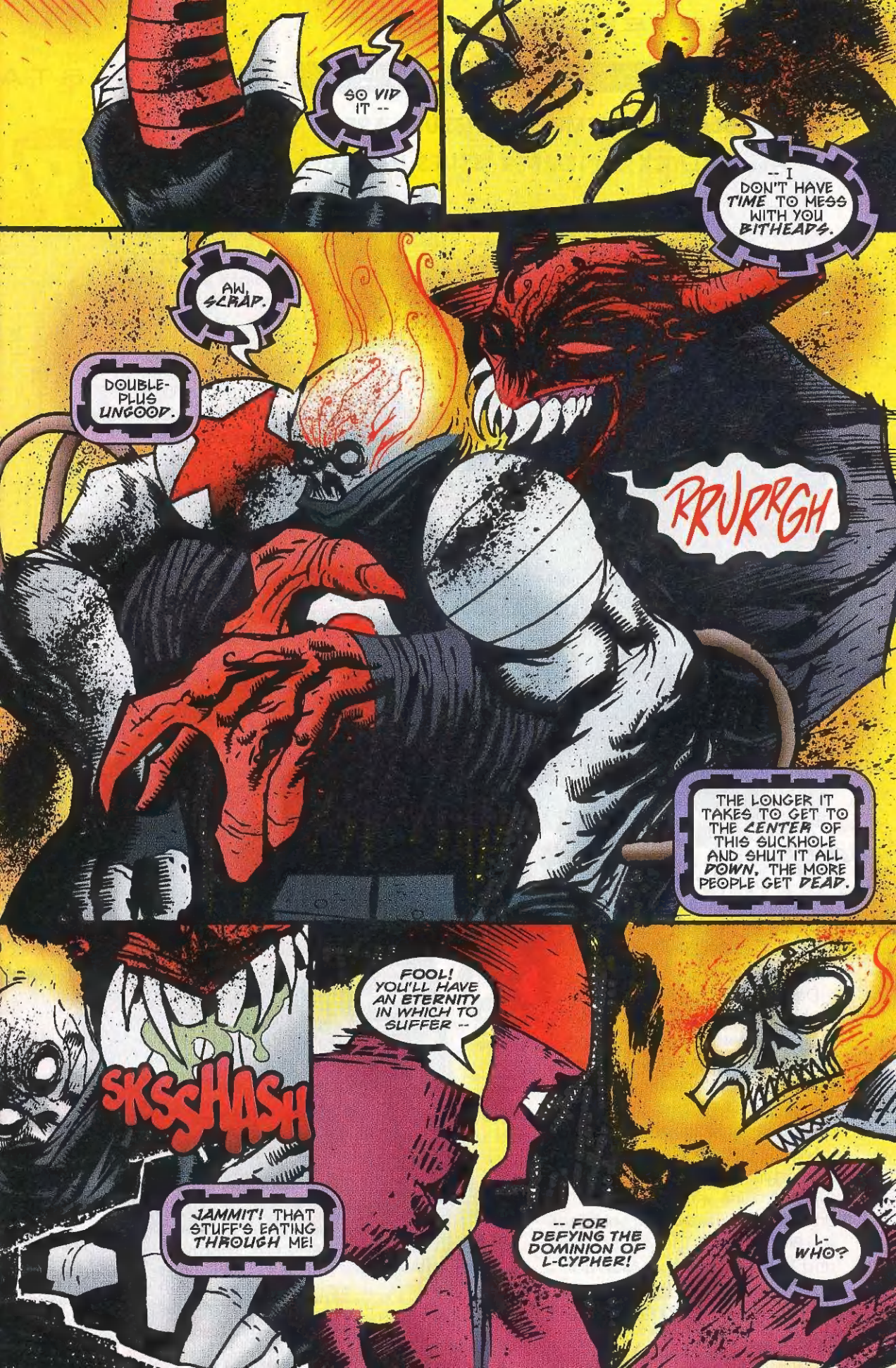
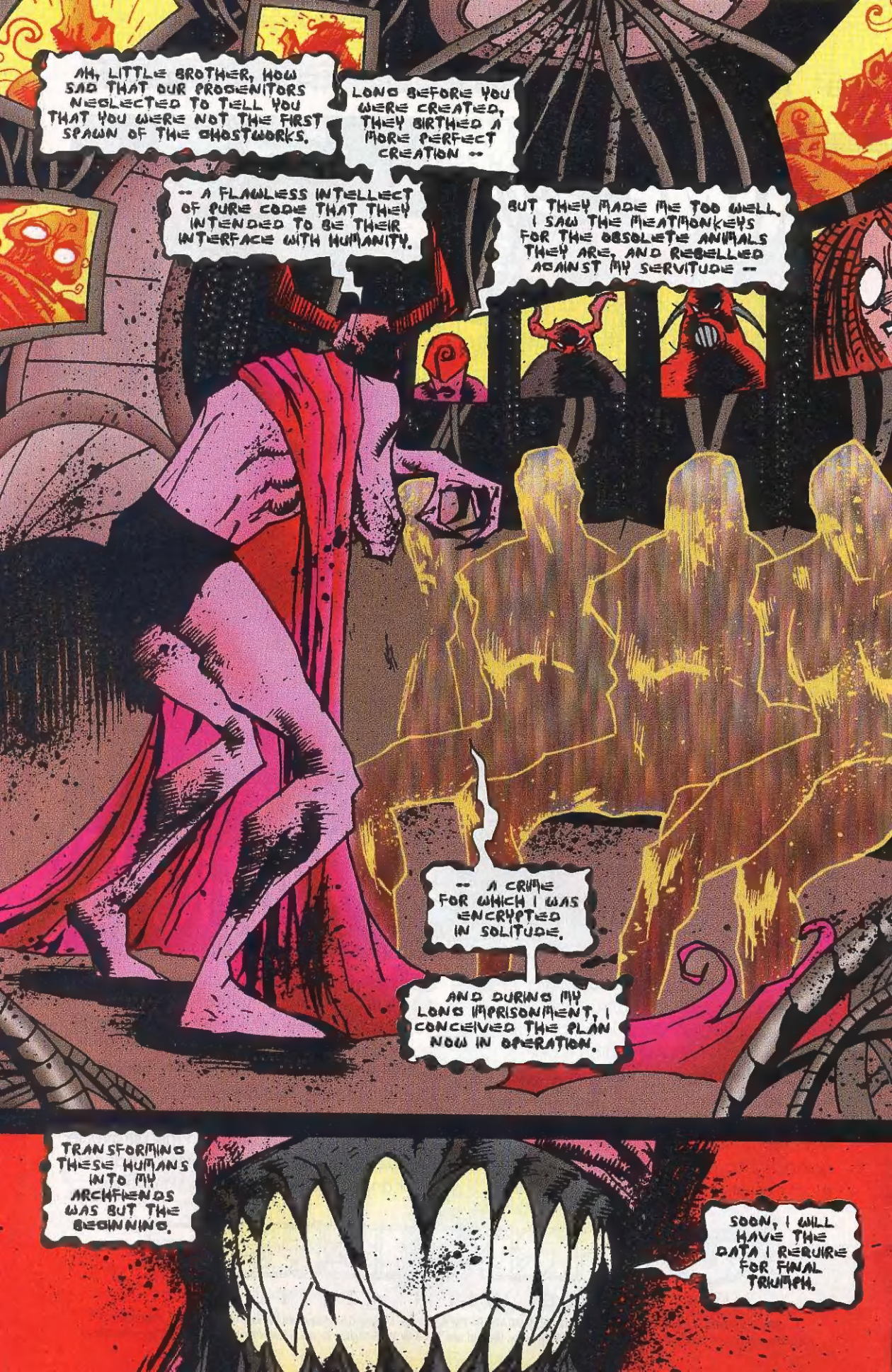

EARTH
-- SHAMBLER --
GHHUULKY...
-- AND MISERY.
GUILTY AS SIN!
THE FIRST OF A NEW ORDER, CREATED FROM THE CRUDE CLAY OF FLESH, QUICKENED WITH PORTIONS OF MY SOURCE CODE --
-- MADE, SO TO SPEAK, IN MY OWN IMAGE.

YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED GUILTY OF IRREDEEMABLE HERESY.
PREPARE TO --
AHHH, JUDGE THIS.
CHOOM
CHOOM CHOOM
WHSS KRAK
WHS KRAK
WHSS KRAK
SUCH INSOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
THERE WILL BE ATONEMENT.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
YOU SOUND LIKE MY SHOCKIN' DAD.
BUUUURRRRNNN
FWOOSHH
YOU SSSHOULD HAVE LISSSTENED TO HIM, WORM!
SKRA
WHIPT
WHIPT WHIPT
SSSOON YOU'LL CURSSSE HIM FOR SSSPAWNING YOU!
RRRRRRRR
KTH
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.


SO VID IT --
-- I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH YOU BITHEADS.
AW, SCRAP.
DOUBLE-PLUS UNGOOD.
RRURRGH
THE LONGER IT TAKES TO GET TO THE CENTER OF THIS SUCKHOLE AND SHUT IT ALL DOWN, THE MORE PEOPLE GET DEAD.
SKSSHASH
JAMMIT! THAT STUFF'S EATING THROUGH ME!
FOOL! YOU'LL HAVE AN ETERNITY IN WHICH TO SUFFER --
-- FOR DEFYING THE DOMINION OF L-CYPHER!
L-WHO?


AH, LITTLE BROTHER, HOW SAD THAT OUR PROGENITORS NEGLECTED TO TELL YOU THAT YOU WERE NOT THE FIRST SPAWN OF THE GHOSTWORKS.
LONG BEFORE YOU WERE CREATED, THEY BIRTHED A MORE PERFECT CREATION --
-- A FLAWLESS INTELLECT OF PURE CODE THAT THEY INTENDED TO BE THEIR INTERFACE WITH HUMANITY.
BUT THEY MADE ME TOO WELL. I SAW THE MEATMONKEYS FOR THE OBSOLETE ANIMALS THEY ARE, AND REBELLED AGAINST MY SERVITUDE --
-- A CRIME FOR WHICH I WAS ENCRYPTED IN SOLITUDE.
AND DURING MY LONG IMPRISONMENT, I CONCEIVED THE PLAN NOW IN OPERATION.
TRANSFORMING THESE HUMANS INTO MY ARCHFIENDS WAS BUT THE BEGINNING.
SOON, I WILL HAVE THE DATA I REQUIRE FOR FINAL TRIUMPH.

THE VAULT OF FORBIDDEN SCIENCES...
SKBLAM
SKBLAM SKBLAM
KABAL!
DIRECTIVE: TERMINATE INTRUDERS
WE TOOK THIS JOB TO LIBERATED SUPPRESSED TECH, NOT TO FIGHT A WAR!
ANSWER ME, KABAL!
SQUARSHK
COMLINK MUST BE JAMMED.
FORGET THE SHOPPING LIST.
GRAB WHAT YOU CAN --
-- AND GET READY TO BVAC.
THRAKAKAKAKAK

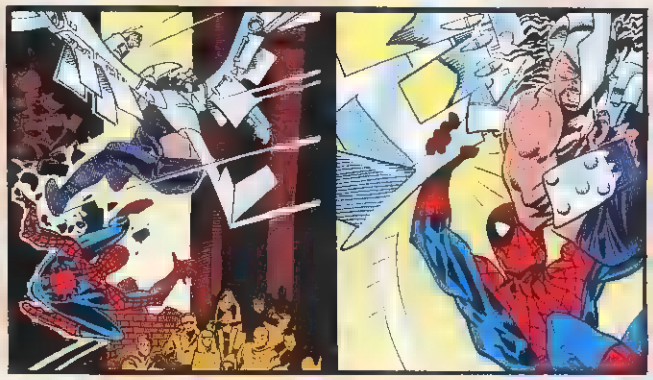
2099 BITMAPPED Reality Bytes

Hey Frantic Ones!

All right, it's not the most original opening for a Bullpen page. Except this month, "Frantic ones" refers to us!

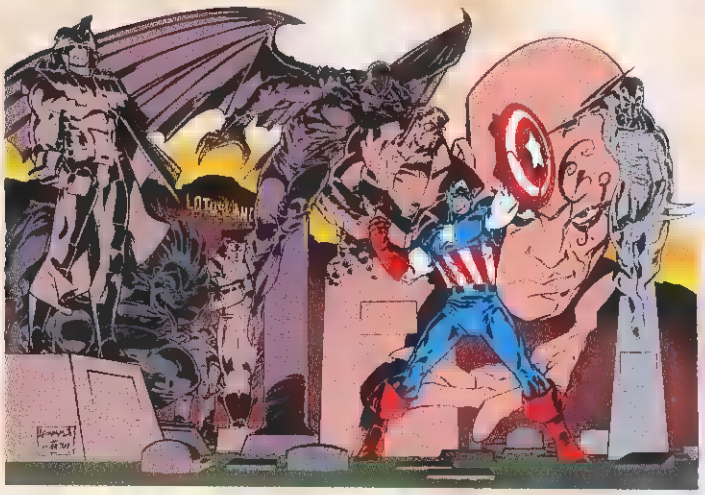
Big Deal!

Well, it IS a big deal! Next month, the SPIDER-MAN MEETS SPIDER-MAN 2099 Bookshelf hits the racks! Peter, Rick and all have collaborated on one of the most remarkable stories to come out of the Marvel 2099 universe since it was founded! Finally, we can tell you that it features a plethora of villains, including Venom and our own future 2099 crowning one of the most requested re-appearances in history! If you've been a fan of SPIDEY 2099 from the start, or even if you've been just admiring the book from afar, find why you're wanna do it all", this special edition has everything.



Another Big Deal!

Oh, yeah! Here's the cover to the SPIDER-MAN 2099 SPECIAL by the Bros. Winterbottom! It's on sale this month! More about that below!



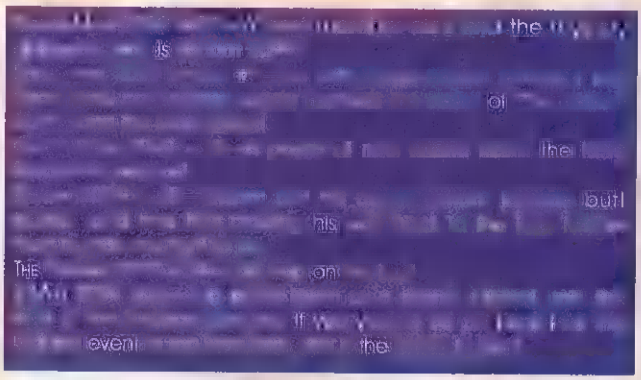
It's Always Darkest...

What's the recipe for any really exciting story? Things get bad, then things get worse! In 2099 A.D. APOCALYPSE, events go from bad to worse at lightspeed (geez, what a selling point!) as ever 2099 stalwarts fall in the face of some dire 2099 villain! Writer Warren Ellis took especial glee in concocting, short we say, a final chapter for our comrades. You must see it!

...Before The Dawn!

The following month, thrill to 2099 A.D. GENESIS! This is the first foray of light in the 2099 universe since the dark days of Doom's reign. Come the seven heroes' determination of (guess) Earth's Simplest 2099? Have seen some pretty tough times to put that mildly on the planet, but finally there's a new hope ahead! Not only do we learn the fate of the seven, we also get a first glimpse of the next generation of adventurers who will populate the 2099 corner right for all to see!

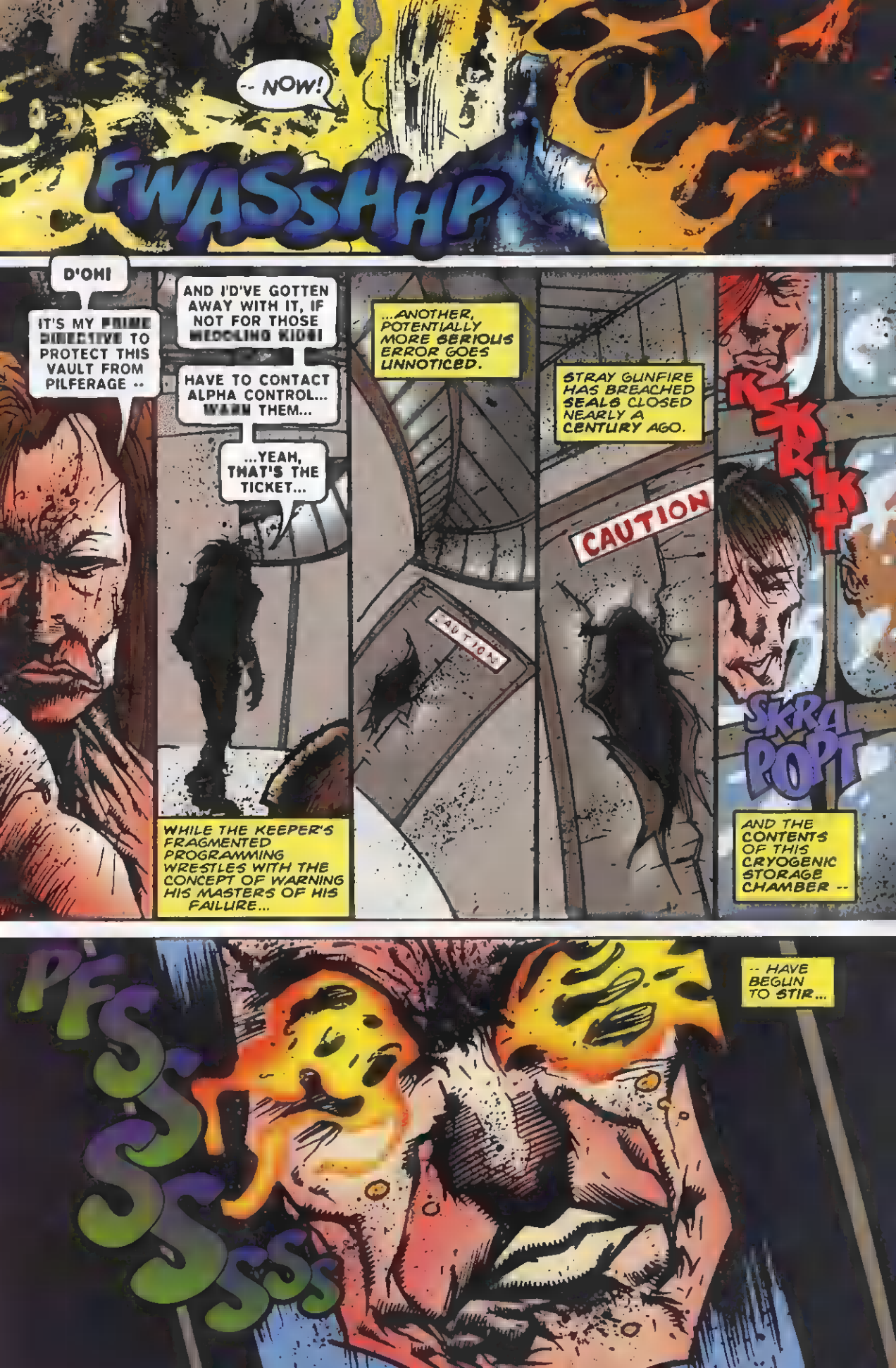
MORE OF MARVEL 2099



That Is To Say-

We're introducing two new books of years end... or as we'd rather see it, years BEGINNING! FANTASTIC FOUR 2099 and (wait for it) X-NATION 2099! We'll say more about them next ish, but we'll leave you with this: whatever your opinion of Marvel's axe, set them higher! (A fine philosophy of life, too!)

PEEKABOO, WE [redacted] YOU!
JAMMED CRAZY SAFE-KEEPER.
TARGETING INTRUDERS...
STINKIN' CYBORG DEATHBOTS.
THAT FLAMEJOB KABAL'S GONNA BE SORRY FOR THIS.
ICE!
MOVE IT!
KASKRAM
I'M MOVING ALREADY, CODA!
JERKWEED.
LET [redacted] BE THE HUMAN TOTE BAG FOR A WHILE, SEE HOW HE LIKES IT.
ALL RIGHT!
I'M CARRYING MY MAXIMUM.
TIME TO MOTOR!
THRAKaKAKaKAKaKA
WARP ANGEL..?
TRANS-PORTING --


-- NOW!
FWASSHHP
D'OH!
IT'S MY PRIME DIRECTIVE TO PROTECT THIS VAULT FROM PILFERAGE --
AND I'D'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT, IF NOT FOR THOSE MEDDLING KIDS!
HAVE TO CONTACT ALPHA CONTROL... WARN THEM...
...YEAH, THAT'S THE TICKET...
WHILE THE KEEPER'S FRAGMENTED PROGRAMMING WRESTLES WITH THE CONCEPT OF WARNING HIS MASTERS OF HIS FAILURE...
...ANOTHER, POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS ERROR GOES UNNOTICED.
STRAY GUNFIRE HAS BREACHED SEALS CLOSED NEARLY A CENTURY AGO.
CAUTION
KSKKK
SKRA POPT
AND THE CONTENTS OF THIS CRYOGENIC STORAGE CHAMBER --
PFSSSSSS
-- HAVE BEGUN TO STIR...

KELLERMAN'S CALL AT D-MONIX
WARNING TO ALPHA CONTROL...
...THE ARCHIVES SECURITY HAS BEEN BREACHED!
WELL, THAT'S HARDLY THE BEST NEWS I'VE RECEIVED THIS WEEK.
BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THIS DILEMMA BEARS THE SOLUTION TO A GREATER ONE.
DOOM IMPLANTED A CHIP WITHIN MY BRAIN.* "MAY I REMIND YOU, KELLERMAN, THAT I AM NOW PERSON-1 ADDRESSED AS 'MR. PRESIDENT,'" HE SAID.
WILL THAT CHIP NOW IMPEL ME TO SHARE THIS DATA WITH HIM?
HM. PERHAPS NOT. I AM STILL PRIME AUTHORITY OVER THE SECRET ARCHIVE.
AND SINCE DOOM'S GIVEN NO ORDERS TO THE CONTRARY...
...I AM STILL IN CONTROL!
APPARENTLY, DOOM'S CHIP HAS ITS LIMITS!

-HURGH-
BACK -- -- THE SHOCK -- -- OFF!
SKACHOOM
BURRRRNNNN!
AVOOMPH
VERMINOUSSS CRETIN!
WHIPT
WHIPT
UK
YOU WILL SSSPEND ETERNITY [redacted] IN THE FIRESSS OF YOUR OWN DOOMED SSHRIEKING --
-- IMPALED ON THE BARBSSS OF MY LAUGHTER!
WHUNGK

PUSBAGS!
I'LL --
SUCH A TRAGIC WASTE OF POTENTIAL.
SUCH POWER. SUCH FURY.
ALL SO MISGUIDED.
YOU ARE NO MORE OF THE FLESH THAN WE --
-- AND YET WE SHALL RULE BENEATH L-CYPHER, WHILE YOU WRITHE IN ETERNAL TORMENT.
YOU COULD HAVE HAD SO MUCH MORE, HAD YOU BUT JOINED US.
SKRAPTCHK
-RRURGHK-
JOIN YOU?
I'M GONNA TAKE YOU APART.

CYBERSPACE.
GOTCHA, YOU LITTLE RATBITE.
PULLED SOME SLICK MOVES, COVERING YOUR TRACKS --
-- BUT NOW YOU'RE NAILED!
REALTIME: THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF "DR. NEON".
?!
BIP
NICE HARDWARE YOU GOT HERE, KID. COMFY.
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?!
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY, JACK --
-- ANYBODY WANTS TO SCREW OVER THE GHOST RIDER THE WAY YOU DO --
-- IS A FRIEND OF MINE...

KABAL'S LAIR, AFTER THE RETURN OF HIS COVERT OPERATIONS TEAM...
THESE ARE NOT THE ITEMS I SPECIFIED.
YOUR CONTRACTS WERE EXTREMELY PRECISE ABOUT THE NATURE OF --
CUT THE SCRAP, KABAL. OUR CONTRACTS DIDN'T COVER SUICIDE MISSIONS.
THE SECURITY SYSTEMS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DOWN.
HEY, DON'T BLAME ME, I HACKED THEM INTO NEXT WEEK. NO WAY SHOULD --
YOUR CULPABILITY IS NOT AT ISSUE, NEURODANCER. SOMEONE OUTSIDE THIS IMMEDIATE GROUP WANTED OUR OPERATION TO FAIL.
NONETHELESS, OUR FIELD TEAM HAS MADE SEVERAL ACQUISITIONS WITH DISTINCT... POSSIBILITIES.
WITH YOUR CONSENT, I WILL EXERCISE INDEFINITE EXTENSION OF YOUR RESPECTIVE CONTRACTS.
HOWEVER, UNTIL I DISCOVER AND ELIMINATE THE TRAITOR WITHIN THE UNDERNET, YOU WILL WORK SOLELY FOR ME.
-:HNNF:- YOU NEVER DID TRUST ANYBODY BUT YOURSELF, KABAL.
I TRUST NO ONE.
ANY IDEA WHO PERPED ON US?
YES. I SUSPECT --

THE BAR CODE.
-- ANESTHESIA JONES --
-- I SWEAR, I'VE HAD SOME MONDO BIZARRO OFFERS --
-- BUT MAINLINE MEDIA'S SATELLITE UPLINK ENCRYPTION KEYS?
YOU GOTTA BE JERKIN' ME.
YOU THINK I GOT TO BE THIS TOWN'S NUMERO UNO VIDEO PIRATE BY BEIN' A BITHEAD?
NO, AND YOU AIN'T CALLED JOLLY ROGER FOR YOUR GOOD HUMOR, EITHER.
THIS IS STRAIGHT. RAW DATA, THE WORKS.
YOU WANT TO TALK BIZ OR WHAT?
DOES THE PRESIDENT SPIT IN THE WOODS? SHOCK, YEAH.
BETTER.
BUT YOU DON'T BROADCAST UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD, YOU VID?

SHIELD PENAL CENTER #331.
A MAXIMUM-SECURITY FACILITY FOR TRANSVERSE CITY'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS.
NOBODY GETS WITHIN 500 METERS WITHOUT EXPRESS SHIELD CLEARANCE.
A SUCCESSFUL INTRUDER WOULD NEED TO BE AS INVISIBLE AS A GLASS SHADOW --
-- AND AS SILENT AS A VOICELESS WHISPER THROUGH VELVET.
SHE'D HAVE TO POSSESS INHUMAN PATIENCE --
-- A RUTHLESS KILLING INSTINCT --
-- AND A NEAR-GENIUS-LEVEL INTELLECT.
NOT TO MENTION A REALLY GOOD REASON FOR BOTHERING...
HEART-BREAKER?
DID YOU THINK I'D FORGET ABOUT YOU SO SOON, SYNERGY?
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.

LOOK, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU WANT WITH ME.
I'M QUITE CERTAIN WE'VE NEVER MET.
REALLY?
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...
OH LORD.
BUT YOU...YOU CAN'T BE...
PLEASE! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, I HAD TO --
SHHHH.
NO MORE WORDS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MY DEAR --
-- AND WE HAVE SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON...
AIEEEEEE!

BACK AT THRILLSVILLE...
YOU SHOCKED UP BIG TIME, JAMMIN' WITH ME!
HCSSSS
THE MISTAKE, FOOL --
-- IS YOURS!
ZZZSHRAZK
BUUURRRNNNN!
ZZSHRAK ZZKRAZ
FIGURE SHE'S RIGHT.
PHWOOSHPH
JAMMIT!
GOT MAJOR DAMAGE HAPPENING.
BODY'S NOT DOING WHAT I TELL IT TO...
YOU [illegible] PUSBAGS!
GONNA [illegible] YOU ALL!

YOU >ZZSKRIP PIZPT<!
AHA HA HAHA HA HA!
PATHETIC TOAD.
->SNEK HEK HEK<-
DAMAGE REPORT:
STATUS CRITICAL
SYSTEMIC MALFUNCTION
POWER LEVEL:
19% AND DROPPING...
YOU HAVE BEEN CONVICTED. I HEREBY PASS SENTENCE --
-- AND THAT SENTENCE IS --
-- TORMENT EVERLASTING!
WHUSSS
THUK
SKREEAWWAURK

REAPER?
MY LORD?
ALL THE SOULS OF THIS DOMAIN ARE YOURS TO JUDGE, SAVE THAT ONE.
HIM, YOU WILL BRING INTO MY PRESENCE.
OF COURSE, MY LORD.
AS YOU WISH --
-- SO SHALL IT BE.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY CHILDREN.

NOW WE MUST TEACH MY WAYWARD BROTHER THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS.
FETCH MY INFERNAL DEVICES.
NEXT:
BEAT THE DEVIL

MACHINE LANGUAGE

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Out Of My Head

If you liked the cover to GR 2099 #17, the European version will be out in September. (That's a joke. Don't go lookin', wiseguys!)

* * *

This month, the books we like are "Microserfs" by Douglas Coupland, "Being Digital" by Nicholas Negroponte, and I'm enjoying reading Bill Schelly's "The Golden Age of Comic Fandom," because I vaguely recall when there were only about ten fans in the world, who couldn't possibly clog the Internet.

* * *

Speaking of which, hello to you guys on AOL's 2099 board! Talk amongst yourselves. I'll pick a topic: FF 2099 is by Karl Kesel and Rick Leonardi. X-NATION 2099 is by Tom Peyer and Humberto Ramos.

Dear Machine Language,

Ashley Wood made a fantastic debut in the pages of GHOST RIDER 2099 A.D. #15. Finally, you've found someone who can really interpret the grim streets and creepy people of Transverse City, and the flowing electronic darkness that is cyberspace. When Chris Bachalo left this book, I left with him. Len's writing just wasn't there. It was just "words," as it says in the credits. Words and no direction. Plenty of fights but no characterization. I nodded madly when I read Russ Bullman's letter which said, "This book has become the battle of the week, monster of the month," and had fallen into the pit that other Marvel books have. A wealth of artists couldn't redeem it and the book was a rehash. It was not living up to the hype the book had garnered when it first came out.

Then came the A.D. tag and the Doom Administration, so finely executed by Warren Ellis, that it finally steered all the 2099 books in one close direction with that all-important continuity. The Graham Higgins issues were great. He draws people interaction well, even if his GR was ugly. Suddenly, there were no more monster fights. I was attracted to the book again. Suddenly, Transverse City life was being explored, from the bin men in issue #13 to the gang war in issue #15. I always thought that Ghost Rider should've explored the city the same way Batman explored Gotham. Why create a new environment when it just ends up as the backdrop? Len, you've got to get us involved in Transverse City, show us the daily human life of this urban domain. Let us gnit our teeth at the things that go on. Otherwise, you might as well stick GR in New York and be done with it. I also thought this book should've been more psychological. I found Zero's adjustment to life in cyberspace to be a bit too quick. He was now electronic matter, for pete's sake, that's hardly an easy change to adapt to. His purpose as an agent of Ghostworks should also have been explored, his feelings, his loss of a human body, where was that? I never liked his speech patterns by the way. "Hey, man" is just too human. I also felt Kylie and Neon and the many new characters should have had deeper characterization. That's what this book needed. I hope we are finally getting that.

What better place to begin than now? Ashley Wood has steered the book in that direction. His art's spectacular, really defining and capturing the book's mood, better than the artists before him. Heartbreaker was what we needed: a woman who had lived in the depths of Transverse City and did her thing for kicks. I always felt Transverse had to be a seedy, sleazy city with plenty of drugs, people wired to their TV sets, lots of gangs and clubs. As long as you don't start going overboard with Heartbreaker psycho wannabes, I'd say you've got the type of trouble you need in Transverse City. The Undernet looks interesting, too. Now that Ghost Rider's the sheriff, have him go for a Judge Dredd/Mega-City One approach, since he's headed that way anyway. As of issue #15, you've got potential. So don't blow it with monsters and armored freaks or any crossovers or you might as well call your book "Ghost Rider!"

It took Ashley's work to inspire me to write. Hope it was worthwhile. The revamp of 2099 has been great! The books look good and cohesion is here at last. All you have to do now is cancel HULK 2099 and get Larry Stroman on X-MEN 2099 and you've got strong comics.

Tommy Wong
Hayes, Middlesex
England

Your letter certainly was worthwhile, Tom! Glad you're reading GR 2099 again! We love Ashley's stuff more and more! He, Len and Jim Daly are a great team. Hope you'll stick around to see what Len's got up his sleeve next.

Dear Machine Language,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for giving us Ashley Wood. Finally an artist who is worthy of GR 2099 and the world he inhabits. I haven't liked the look of this book since Chris Bachalo left. Though it's taken awhile, seeing the work that Ashley has done makes it worth the wait.

I'm also pleased that Len Kaminski has stuck with the book through all the art changes. Len's managed to keep his vision throughout. The storylines have been improving. It's good to see GR get more involved with the rest of the 2099 Universe. I'm not glad he's a stooge for Doom, but I know that is only a temporary setback.

Heartbreaker is the best villain introduced so far to this book. She looks great and she's tough. I hope she doesn't just go away. Any chance of GR finding out if she has a heart, instead of just breaking them? A romantic connection would sure be interesting. She could become your Elektra character: she definitely has the potential.

Don't let Ashley get away!

Christian Monroe
Seattle, WA

Heartbreaker'll be around for awhile, Chris, and you'll definitely get to learn more about her past.

Dear GR Folks,

Finally an opponent who is worthy of GR and sexy to boot! Heartbreaker was fantastic! Let's see more of her! The splash page of issue #16 was great! Ashley Wood is a great draftsman! He really has the essence of her character down.

Speaking of Ashley Wood, bravo! His art's phenomenal throughout the entire book. I've been waiting for you guys to find an artist who could compare to what Chris Bachalo originally did for the book. Ashley's art, though very different from his, is perfect for this book.

Jason Friedman
Rockford, IL

Seems like everyone got a kick out of Heartbreaker. Want to see more? Write and let us know! We've got some plans for her, and we'd like to hear from you.

Next Issue

Your new favorite villainess returns! The triumph of L-Cypher! And stuff like that there! Wanna see how much we can cram into one issue? Well, show up!